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THURSDAY
AUGUST 19, 1954

David Schoenbrun visited me this morning. His high hopes of Mendès have turned to bitter disappointment in him because of the nature of the French Protocol. I had seen Callender yesterday afternoon in Belgium and he had told me of the meeting between several of the American newspaper correspondents and the Prime Minister the day before. Schoenbrun gave me more details about this interview. He thought Mendès' attitude had been one of cynical opportunism such as he had never before seen him exhibit.

David has been bearing the torch for his friend, but by this morning had thrown it into the gutter and is going back to Deauville to continue writing his book.

Ridgway Knight arrived today from Germany. He is to spend several days here before proceeding to London, where he will join the group working on the reply to the Russian note. I told him of Hartman having been called in by Ambassador Dillon during my absence in connection with what the Embassy seemed to regard as a lack of coordination with it of the telegram I had sent out Sunday. They had recommended against the acceptance of two of my recommendations, but seem to have been overruled. I explained the situation to Ridge, who is going to Chantilly this afternoon to see Dillon and explain to him that he knows I have tried in every way never to be a source of embarrassment or of confusion in the Embassy, but that at this particular time all these questions involve interests far wider than those of the domestic political situation in France, and I have to permit myself a certain latitude of movement and independent decision.

Ridge and I lunched together at the Restaurant Marigny.

Afterwards, Bob Joyce came over. I explained to him in great detail and documented the situation I had outlined to Ridge this morning. Bob was understanding and satisfied.

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I had talked this morning to Jacques Van Helmont about the Socialist lineup in France in the event Mendès insisted upon a take-it-or-leave-it adoption of his Protocol. He said the pro-EDC Socialists could, under no circumstances, accept the Protocol. However, this statement is at variance with a report sent out by the Embassy covering a conversation between Mr. Looram and Gazier of the French Socialist Party. Any further doubts on this matter were dispelled by Van Helmont and I so informed Joyce, especially since two articles in the Paris newspapers today, one by André Philip in France Tireur, and the other by Robert Schuman in Figaro clearly serve notice on Mendès that if he voids the Treaty of substance, as his Protocol plainly does, he cannot count on support for his program from EDC proponents in the Mollet wing of the Socialist Party and from the MRP.

Tonight I had a telephone call from Brussels saying these two articles, and especially Schuman's, had created a sensation there and had cut the ground from under much of Mendès' pleading that his views be endorsed by his colleagues.

We went down to Versailles for the night.

Audrey and Eugénie dined with us and later Eugénie drove the Ford Vedette which they had hired for their continental tour back to town. In the course of two accidents, from which the girls luckily escaped unscathed, they have almost battered this poor car to pieces. The hiring agents told Audrey she was the most expensive client they ever had. They will charge her $100 toward the damages, but the rest apparently the girls must pay themselves under their contract. I had suggested she offer $250 as a mark of her repentance, but the agents refused to accept it, so there the matter rests.

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